



U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration

NHTSA
People Saving People
www.nhtsa.dot.gov

What a Difference Five Years Made!

1994–Present

Achieved the Lowest Fatality Rate and Lowest Percentage of Alcohol-Related Crashes in American History

Goal 5. Reduce the number and severity of road collisions.

"Working together, we've made enormous progress in reducing drunk driving in America. Today, I'm pleased to report we're making even more. Last year, the number of people killed in alcohol-related crashes hit a record low; and young people killed in alcohol-related crashes fell to the lowest rate ever recorded."

—President Clinton, September 2, 1999

The President praised the tireless work of the many private and public traffic safety partners throughout America dedicated to saving lives by heightening awareness about the deadly consequences of impaired driving and preventing these senseless tragedies.

According to NHTSA's data, alcohol was involved in 38 percent of the traffic fatalities in 1998. The total number of traffic deaths declined 1.3 percent in 1998. Fatalities dropped from 42,013 in 1997 to 41,471 in 1998. Alcohol-related fatalities dropped from 16,189 in 1997 to 15,935 in 1998.

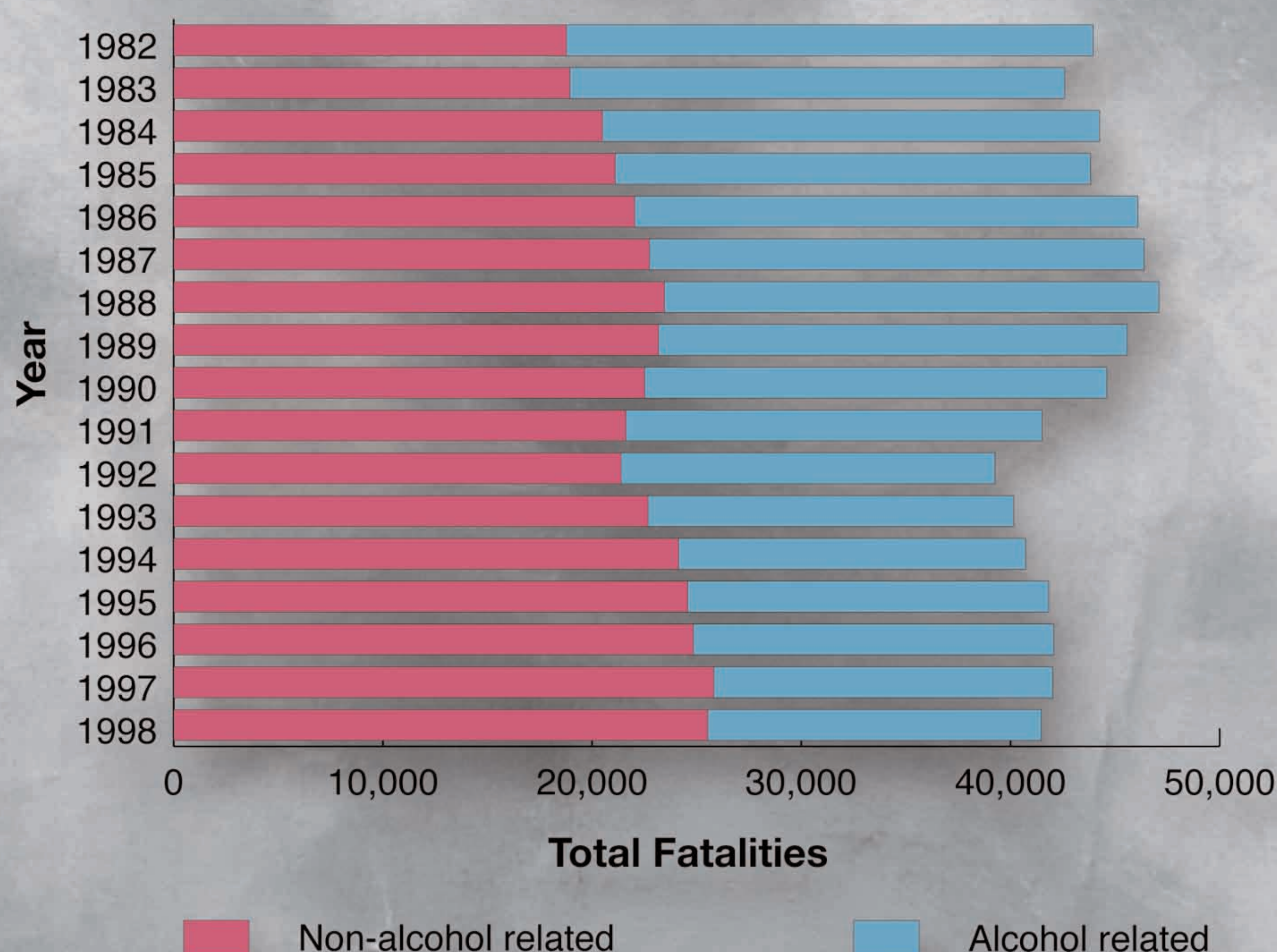
"We have made great strides since 1995 when we established with our partners a national challenge of reducing alcohol-related traffic fatalities in America to no more than 11,000 by the year 2005. Today, all states and the District of Columbia have 21 year-old minimum drinking age laws that have saved more than 18,000 lives since 1975. And, most recent statistics indicate that every year nearly 1.5 million potential killers are taken off America's highways by law enforcement agencies thanks to tougher laws and greater emphasis by community leaders and traffic safety advocates."

—Ricardo Martinez, M.D., former Administrator, NHTSA

President Clinton also reported that the rate of alcohol-related crashes per 100,000 population for youth ages 15–20 was the lowest since record-keeping for alcohol-related crashes began in 1982.

Additionally, the number of crash-related injuries also declined between 1997 and 1998, dropping from 3.4 million to 3.2 million. The fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) remained at the historic low level of 1.6.

Total Fatalities & Alcohol Related Fatalities 1982-1998



DRUNK DRIVING DOESN'T JUST KILL DRUNK DRIVERS.

Andrea Harris, killed August 26, 1991 at 6:00pm on El Camino Real, Atascadero, California.

Next time your friend insists on driving drunk, do whatever it takes to stop him. Because if he kills innocent people, how will you live with yourself?

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.



U.S. Department of Transportation

"Team work is the heart of any successful operation. When we set our goals in the Strategic Plan back in 1994, we built in a foundation that empowered the NHTSA employee and sparked individual creativity and innovation. The resulting accomplishments of working as a team over the past half decade have been nothing short of magnificent. Everyone at NHTSA should feel we are moving forward. Because we are. Each one of you should feel very proud of your individual contributions to the overall momentum that is making highways safer for us all. We are, after all, people saving people. It's what we do – and what all of you do so well."

Congratulations and Thank You to All Members of the NHTSA Family for a Job Well Done!

John A. ... Dan ... Rae A. ... Ken Weinstein ... Rae Tyson ... Ray